



**OFFICE OF COUNCILMEMBER RAUL A. CAMPILLO
THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO
SEVENTH DISTRICT**

MEMORANDUM

DATE: April 11, 2023

TO: Mayor Todd Gloria

FROM: Councilmember Raul A. Campillo

Raul A. Campillo

SUBJECT: Increased Fire Safety in District 7

I am writing to express my concern regarding the potential for a devastating fire season in San Diego's 7th Council District. As you are aware, California has experienced major rains in recent months, which have resulted in an abundance of new growth that will act as fuel for fires during the upcoming fire season. San Diego has a history of destructive wildfires, and we must take action to prevent a recurrence of past disasters.

In the past, our district has been impacted by several significant wildfires, including the Cedar Fire in 2003 that particularly impacted the community of Tierrasanta. These fires have resulted in the loss of homes, businesses, and, most importantly, human lives. The impact of these disasters on our community was devastating, and we must do everything we can to prevent a recurrence.

In the winter and spring of 2020, the San Diego region faced similar significant rain events to those of 2023, which were followed in the fall by devastating fires, particularly the Valley Fire, which burned over 16,000 acres, destroyed and damaged over 70 structures, and injured three individuals. In 2020, wildfires cost the state over \$12 billion. Across the state, fire prevention resources were stretched thin.

Given the past experience of our district, I believe it is critical that we take proactive measures to ensure that our community is adequately prepared for the potential threat of wildfires. This includes increasing the number of inspectors and firefighter staff to manage brush and mitigate fire risks in our district.

It is essential that we take immediate action to address the potential fire hazards in our district and in the City. By supplementing staffing and increasing inspections, we can ensure that brush management and fire precautions are adequately addressed prior to the fire season. Our constituents are concerned, and they want the City to be prepared.

I know that you to take this matter seriously, and I am requesting that our City allocate the necessary resources to protect our communities from the potential devastation of another wildfire.

Cc: Paola Avila, Chief of Staff, Office of the Mayor
Colin Stowell, Fire Chief, San Diego Fire-Rescue
Chloe Madison, Senior Policy Advisor, Office of the Mayor
Michael Simonsen, Chief of Staff, District 7

RAC:vv